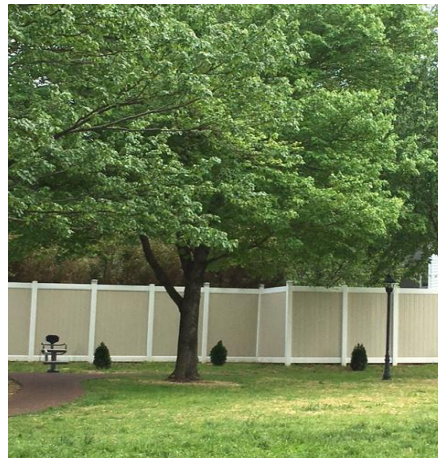
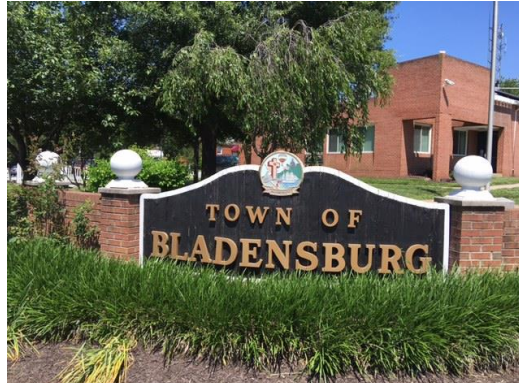


Town Administrators May 2017 Monthly Report





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Town's Department Heads held their third Community Forum. Over 20 residents, many new residents as well as long-term residents previously not involved in Town activities attended the meeting. Mr. Tinelli, the Town Treasurer presented the proposed FY18 budget to those in attendance. Ms. Sandlin, the Town Administrator presented the recently adopted Strategic Plan and Action Plan. Those residents in attendance were engaged in the conversation and were pleased with the Town providing the forum to engage residents in a discussion of what is happening in the Town and to provide an opportunity to give input in to Town processes and to have their concerns heard and addressed. The next Department Head Community Forum is scheduled for September 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

The Town Treasurer and Town Administrator have been finalizing the proposed budget to be presented during the June 12, 2017 Town Council meeting for adoption by the Mayor and Town Council. The proposed budget includes updated budgetary items discussed by Council during their May 15, 2017 Budget Work-session, to include a \$10,000 honorarium for the University of Maryland's School of Urban Planning to assist the Town with developing a Master/Redevelopment Plan for the 450/Annapolis Road Corridor; \$2,000 for professional training for the Marketing Coordinator position; and increasing the Police Department's travel budget to allow for officers to attend training opportunities. Mr. Tinelli pointed out that there was a \$43,000 decrease in expenses from the FY18 budget as compared to the adopted FY17 budget.

As always, the Town staff and I will continue to make every effort to increase efficiencies in Town services as we serve the citizens of Bladensburg. On behalf of the Town staff, I hope you find this report to be an informative tool that assists you, the policy makers, in better serving the Town of Bladensburg, and provides transparency and useful information to the citizens and businesses of the community. I look forward to hearing any feedback you may have. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, and/or suggestions regarding this report.

TNI TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The May 31, 2017 TNI Team meeting was a very productive and informative meeting. Mr. Jeffrey Swilley from the Prince George's County's Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

spoke to those present about two Career Counseling options to offer to the Bladensburg community:

- Train the Trainer – the EDC would train members of the community to serve and provide technical service focusing on helping residents learn how to log into the EDC’s One-Stop Career Service portal and access the job seeker services provided through the EDC.
- Job Seeker Presentation to the community highlighting all the services the EDC provides, including but not limited to:
 - ☐ Information on job service training available
 - ☐ Certification programs available
 - ☐ Assist with search of matching jobs to skills
 - ☐ Job readiness and preparation workshops, job search strategies and focus on soft skills.

Mr. Swilley stated the EDC would not be able to come out for their first Career Counseling workshop/presentation before August. He also stated those interested in serving as a Trainer would need to be Tech savvy and it would be helpful if they were bilingual

Linda Turner, the County’s TNI Manager informed the team that she was able to secure 10 computers for the proposed Bladensburg Career Counseling work center. Ms. Sandlin will confirm with the Fire Department on if they are still willing to allow their facility to be used as a location for Workforce Career services.

Debra Capponi from the Bladensburg Library branch also spoke about the workforce service assistance currently offered to residents. She stated the services at the Bladensburg branch are limited due to staffing availability. The Bladensburg branch will help when available with proofreading resumes; and teach residents how to log into the EDC’s One-Stop website.

However the Hyattsville Branch offers a job seekers club every Monday night from 6:30 to 8:30 PM; and she stated there is also a Pop Up job seekers club located at Saint Christopher’s Episcopal Church in New Carrollton, but this service is by appointment only.

Larry Hentz, Director of Business Development from the EDC provided an update on the recently completed retail market analysis conducted through the EDC and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning. He suggested local governments need to be empowered to:

- Consolidate property – that this will have a great impact on revitalizing communities. However, it is not a quick fix. The community will need to buy-in to holding onto properties until the timing is right for a developer to invest in a project.
- He also stated the elected leadership needs to look at putting policies in place that encourage both opportunities for carrots and sticks.

Ms. Sandlin will reach back out to Mr. Hentz and ask him to come give a presentation to the Mayor, Town Council and community. Due to timing, Mr. Hentz was not able to give a more in-depth presentation

The next TNI Team meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

REDSIGING OF TOWN WEBSITE

Staff is working to finalize the content for the new website. MDA Technologies will be coming out in June to host a beta test with a group of residents to have them test the site for easy use and to ask for input on using the site.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/INITIATIVES

Marketing Initiatives

The Town of Bladensburg initiated a Weekly News-Blast through the use of Constant Contact in December of 2016 to as one of several Community Outreach tools to keep the community informed of what is happening in the Town. When the Town first started the Weekly News-blast Notifications we had 300 subscribers. As of the end of May, the Weekly News-blast subscriber list has grown to 556 active subscribers.

Ms. Dureke and Town Staff are encouraging residents and members of neighboring communities to sign up for the Weekly News-Blast to stay informed about events, meetings and issues impacting the community. Community members interested in receiving the Weekly News-blast can do so by contacting Ms. Dureke at cdureke@bladensburg.net.

Additionally the Town has been using Nextdoor Bladensburg to reach out to not only the Bladensburg community but to surrounding communities.

Ms. Dureke has also set-up at Town Facebook page and Twitter page. Make sure to like us on Facebook page at facebook.com/TOBladensburg@TOBladensburg.

MEETINGS/EVENTS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Town Administrator was involved in the following meetings/events and community outreach activities:

1. Attended the Parkview Tenant Council meeting.
2. Attended the B5 Business Roundtable meeting.
3. Attended the CKAR Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
4. Attended the Prince George's County Executives State of the County Breakfast.
5. Attended the Emerson House Senior Appreciation Cookout.
6. Attended the joint Association for Pennsylvania/Maryland Municipal Management Conference. Courses taken during the conference included:

- a. Going Social: Social Media is Changing Everything
- b. Planning for Your Future Workforce
- c. Storm-water Management Best Practices
- d. Creating an Implementable Comprehensive Plan
- e. Managing in a Constant State of Confusion
- f. 360 Degrees of Data – this workshop focused on how to access and analyze information.